

U.S. Department of Justice
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Western District of New York

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PRESS RELEASE

December 8, 2005

RE: UNITED STATES v. JOSEPH C. DETTELIS

Acting United States Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter announced today that Joseph C. Dettelis of Buffalo, New York, was found guilty by a jury on all 20 counts of an indictment that had charged him with assisting taxpayers in the filing of false tax returns. The four-week trial before U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara concluded yesterday.

Lead prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Marie P. Grisanti and co-counsel Patrick Pericak of the U.S. Department of Justice Tax Division said the jury convicted Dettelis of 11 counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns, 5 counts of filing false claims with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and 4 counts of making statements to the IRS falsely representing himself to be an attorney. Dettelis, a tax preparer, conducted business under the business name of *The Allentown Venture Center, Inc.* The tax years at issue during the trial were 1995, 1996 and 1998.

During the trial, the jury learned that Dettelis had told his taxpayer clients that he found a “loophole” in the law, which made their wages “not taxable.” The defendant’s scheme involved amending tax returns for prior years and deducting his clients’ wages, which resulted in reducing the amount of tax owed for those years. Penalties were

imposed on some of the Dettelis' clients as a result of this scheme. Some of his clients were audited by the IRS. One client had to repay the IRS more than \$8,000 as a result of filing the tax return Dettelis had prepared for her.

This case was the culmination of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Anne Marie Coons, and Treasury Inspector General For Tax Administration under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Kevin J. McGlynn.

Dettelis will be sentenced by Judge Arcara on March 15 at 12:30 p.m.